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BRIDPORT
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1970



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BRIDPORT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Mountfield,
Bridport,
Dorset.

Medical Officer of Health
Dorchester 3131, Ext. 470

PUBLIC HEALTH AND PLANS COMMITTEE 1970

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Mr. R. B. HOWARTH, M.B.E. (Vice-Chairman)

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Chief Public Health Inspector,
J. C. ANGUS, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector,
J. R. NEWMAN, C.Eng., A.M.I.Mun.E., F.R.S.H.
Additional Public Health Inspector,
K. S. BOLT, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Public Health Inspector (Meat Inspection),
E. E. ROUGHTON, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.
Pupil Public Health Inspector,
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Rodent Operative,
K. S. GRIFFIN
Clerk/Typist,
Mrs. C. LEE

BRIDPORT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1970

GENERAL STATISTICS

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
Area in Acres	32,048	32,048
Registrar General's Estimated Mid-Year Population	8,280	8,490
Number of Dwellings	3,531	3,627
Rateable Value (As at 1st April)	£260,578	£274,019
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£1,035	£1,100

VITAL STATISTICS 1970

Corrected Birth and Death Rates compared with other areas (Births and Deaths per 1,000 population)

	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>
Bridport Rural District	14.1 (14.4)	10.7 (9.5)
England and Wales	16.0 (16.3)	11.7 (11.9)
Dorset	16.1 (17.1)	10.7 (10.7)
Bridport Borough	15.8 (16.1)	13.1 (12.6)

The figures in brackets are those for 1969.

In calculating Birth and Death Rates, area comparability factors are issued by the Registrar General to "correct" irregularities in the age and sex structure of the population, and also to take into account any high mortality due to the presence of residential institutions.

Additional Summer Population

In a Rural District with a seaboard the effect of holiday population becomes important to many public services. Water supplies, sewage works and refuse collection services are fully extended. Food shops and public houses have greatly increased sales, swimming pools are taking full loads, and public conveniences and lay-bys become repositories for all manner of waste.

Most townspeople now have access to a vehicle either by owning or hiring a car or even borrowing a delivery van. This is changing the use of a rural area in the summer. Coastal towns with boarding houses no longer monopolise the holidaymaker who now finds caravanning, tenting and bed and breakfasting more to his liking. Some families spend many hundreds of pounds on equipment and there are many touring caravans on our roads in summer, car and caravan having cost £3,000 or more. In 1970 an attempt was made to calculate the additional summer population at the height of the season for the two Rural Districts with a coastline for which I am responsible. An estimation is as follows:

	<u>No. of Persons in</u>	
	<u>Bridport R.D.</u>	<u>Dorchester R.D.</u>
Holiday Camp	Nil	1,000
Static Holiday Caravans (4 persons per caravan)	5,360	4,600
Transit Caravans ($3\frac{1}{2}$ persons per caravan)	1,730	1,350
Bed and Breakfast and Summer Lettings	1,200	1,540
Licensed Tents (4 persons per tent)	4,280	4,960
School Camping Parties, Scouts etc.	<u>600</u>	<u>350</u>
ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL SUMMER POPULATION	13,170	13,800
Registrar General's Mid-Year Resident Population	8,490	18,400

BIRTHS AND INFANTILE DEATHS

	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Live Births	35	46	3	4	88
Still Births	2	2	-	-	4
Deaths under 1 year	1	-	-	-	1
Deaths under 4 weeks	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths under 1 week	-	-	-	-	-

Infantile Mortality Rate

The Infantile Mortality Rate is the number of deaths among infants under one year of age per thousand registered live births. There was one infantile death under one year of age and the area experienced 88 live births.

The National Rate was 18 deaths among infants under one year of age per thousand live births and the Dorset rate was 13 deaths. Our figure is too small to work out an accurate comparative rate but the approximate figure compares quite well with the County Infantile Mortality Rate.

CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

(a) Diseases against which routine immunisation is offered:

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Poliomyelitis:

No notifications of these diseases were received during 1970. This satisfactory position is due entirely to the national immunisation schemes. A few cases continue to occur in England and Wales so that it is vital to continue with this work.

Tetanus:

This disease became notifiable in 1969. No notifications have been received. This is partly due to a national immunisation campaign against the disease but also because infection by the tetanus spore is a rare though none the less serious event. Theoretically the tetanus spore is everywhere outdoors, and gains access to the body through a skin wound. The spore prefers to live without oxygen so that a deep puncture wound is more likely to encourage growth of the organism rather than a graze. Barbed wire, lacerations from mechanical equipment in the field, motor cycle accidents etc. are

typical factors contributing to infection.

To be immune adults and children need three doses of tetanus toxoid at the prescribed intervals, followed by a boosting injection every five years. Persons who received injections in the armed services many years ago believe that they are still immune, others who after a cut receive anti-tetanus serum think that they are permanently immune. Nothing could be further from the case.

Measles:

93 cases of Measles were notified during the year. This disease is preventable by vaccination. The vaccine is freely available to young children in doctors' surgeries and in infant welfare clinics. However, public response though good for the other preventable diseases is not so forthcoming for Measles. This is not due to apathy. It is common knowledge that a vaccine is available. Most mothers I have spoken to have considered the advantages and disadvantages of Measles vaccination and many of those who have declined to use the vaccine have done so for two reasons. The first is that the disease itself is mild in many cases, and the second is that they have heard from other mothers of the occasional symptoms the vaccine causes. Whilst they acknowledge that these symptoms are a small price to pay to abort an attack of the natural disease they are not happy that even these small complications should be inflicted upon their child by a decision of theirs.

Decisions parents have to make are more complex as our style of living becomes more sophisticated. A generation ago few parents had to take the decision whether Jill could fly to Austria with the school party or whether Jack could have a motorbike. Measles vaccination is a case in point. I am now frequently asked for advice on Measles prevention either in a family or connected with a place of work. In the case of the former a young baby is usually involved, in the case of the latter employers are anxious to avoid the nuisance value of the disease in time lost from work. The vaccine can be used preventively if given soon enough after exposure.

Vaccination and Immunisation Statistics 1970

Poliomyelitis		Whooping Cough		Tetanus		Diphtheria		Measles
Primary Course	Boosting dose	Primary Course	Boosting dose	Primary Course	Boosting dose	Primary Course	Boosting dose	
<u>1969</u> 70	156	56	35	56	131	57	178	41
<u>1970</u> 85	176	75	31	82	180	81	169	97

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the above figures.

German Measles:

This disease is not notifiable and its effect on the average patient is mild. The danger lies in the effect exposure to the virus has on the foetus especially during the first three months of pregnancy. If pregnant women know they have been contacts of a case up to the sixteenth week of pregnancy it is advisable for them to consult their doctors. It is now possible to find by serological means whether they are immune. If they are not immune further serology in four weeks may show an increase in antibody concentration demonstrating that an infection has taken place. Consideration may then be given to terminating the pregnancy.

We hope this "stop gap" procedure will eventually complement and possibly yield to a national vaccination campaign against the disease which commenced during the year. Vaccination against German Measles will be offered in Dorset to girls in their fourteenth year, through the County Council scheme. The vaccine is also available to family doctors and there is no reason why older girls should not have it, except that they must be absolutely sure that they are not pregnant at the time of receiving the vaccine nor liable to conceive for two months afterwards.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis:

In 1970 responsibility for the follow up of local contacts from this disease was accepted by the County Health Department. Health Visitors trace contacts and give advice. It is also necessary to decide upon procedure, arrange chest x-rays and possibly to B.C.G. vaccinate young children. No cases were notified during the year.

(b) Infections against which routine immunisation is not offered:

Infective Jaundice:

Two cases of this disease were notified. Each was thought to be due to the Infectious Hepatitis virus. The disease is difficult to control because the laboratory cannot grow the virus. One must make a diagnosis on clinical grounds and then work from first principles in preventing the spread of infection. The virus is usually present in the stools of patients and there is frequently a history of using communal toilets or working in an institution where patients are incontinent.

Salmonella Infection:

Occasionally the County Veterinary Officer writes to me about positive rectal swabs obtained from animals suffering enteritis from salmonella infection. This organism is sometimes responsible for epidemics of diarrhoea in cattle. If humans become infected the inconvenience in the home is considerable, the infection being serious in the very young or in the debilitated.

In the particular case dealt with two farm personnel were thought to be infected by drinking milk containing the organism, not perhaps realising that Salmonella can spread in this manner. In all other respects the hygiene at the farm was excellent, and the milk went to a wholesaler for pasteurisation.

Winter Vomiting Disease:

Early in August family doctors informed me of an outbreak of vomiting with some diarrhoea which seemed to occur principally among holiday makers at a particular caravan site. Vomiting was the predominant symptom and this occurred precipitantly, particularly at night. Specimens of vomit and faeces were sent to the Dorchester laboratory but no organism was grown.

Clinically the symptoms were like a virus infection called "Winter" Vomiting Disease. Little is known about the disease, but it is my clinical experience in school work that it attacks rapidly its susceptibles, so rapidly that half the school is absent one day and one makes a provisional diagnosis of food poisoning, only to have half the school absent the next day with similar symptoms - a state of affairs requiring immediate revision of opinion. "Winter" vomiting is also a misnomer because the disease occurs in the summer too.

After visiting the site where I found many children swimming in the river, I came to the conclusion that the

common factors were likely to be:-

1. Use of communal toilets.
2. Droplet or contact infection between individuals on the site.
3. Swimming in the river which accepted effluent from a sewage works higher upstream to which the site contributed.

I judged the likelihood of infection to be in the order stated above and in the field took the view that the appearance of the river water above and below the sewage outlet was wholesome. This was later borne out by analyses of the biochemical state of the water. The analyst stating that it showed a chemical comparison with fairly clean river water above and below the outlet.

A disinfectant regime was instituted with the co-operation of the site operator in the communal toilets but the disease continued. The Chief Public Health Inspector then obtained a price to bulldoze through the Chesil Beach and drain the lagoon at the river mouth where the children swam. With little approbation from me this was carried out on the 15th August and the lagoon drained. No cases occurred after August 16th.

Although one cannot prove the association between these events I was sufficiently impressed to send a report about our progress with this little understood disease to the Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health and Social Security as required by the Public Health Officers Regulations 1959.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

Specimens for bacteriological examination are dealt with at the Dorchester Public Health Laboratory under the directorship of Doctor G. H. Tee. This laboratory gives us an excellent "on the spot" service.

JOINT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH APPOINTMENT

Commencing in November 1969 the Dorchester and West Dorset County Districts agreed to combine with the Dorset County Council to form a joint medical officer appointment. I have now had the opportunity to work this area for one year.

I have to confess that when the appointment was constituted Local Government revision was much talked about, and I felt that this type of appointment would cease within three or four years. The work of course would go on, but it is unlikely that one doctor would be responsible for the diverse functions of the present M.O.H. appointment. It is more likely that some of these functions will be absorbed by other medical practitioners, or appointments will be created to cover one function over a wider area.

The new joint appointment works well and uses a medical officer for medical decisions and advice, rather than administrative ones. It leaves Chief Public Health Inspectors more firmly in charge of day to day functions in the Health Departments which makes for better working relationships at all levels. Daily appointments are made by my clerk if necessary in my absence and Council staff know that they have only to telephone to book my time.

The total resident population of the joint area is 58,000 but when peak working is experienced between mid June to mid August I am sure this number must rise to 90,000 or more. This summer population movement brings its own problems. The warm weather increases the risk of intestinal infections and one quickly becomes involved in investigations and complaints with London and the Midlands.

As far as routine work is concerned, I am able to get to most Health Committees, none of which conflict. The Joint Public Health staffing arrangements in Bridport M.B. and R.D.C. are very helpful and time saving to me.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The trends of death locally and nationally are similar. Cigarette smoking is associated with such illnesses as Ischaemic Heart Disease, Lung Cancer and Bronchitis. The remedy to some of this premature disease is to an extent in our own hands. Few persons cannot by now have heard of the dangers of smoking but they do little about it. Is this an indictment of early educational measures? It is generally believed that children start smoking at twelve to thirteen years. Do they become addicted to nicotine before their minds are sufficiently developed to weigh the consequences? One of the best methods of educating is to set an example, This has far better and longer lasting effects than formal lectures, films and other mass media. Smokers therefore are not only killing themselves, they are setting an example of a bad habit to the young which perpetuates itself through generations.

CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Code</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
B6(1)	Late Effects of Respiratory T.B.	1	-
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	-
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	1
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	-	3
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	7	1
B19(9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	4	2
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	2	-
B46(1)	Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	1	-
B23	Anaemias	1	-
B46(3)	Mental Disorders	-	1
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	3	-
B27	Hypertensive Disease	2	1
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	21	15
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	1	7
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	13	8
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	2
B31	Influenza	1	1
B32	Pneumonia	4	6
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	1	-
B34	Peptic Ulcer	-	1
B36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	1
B46(8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	2
B39	Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
B43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	-
B45	Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions*	-	1
BE49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>TOTAL ALL CASES</u>		72	53

*This category includes cases for which no specific diagnosis can be made even after investigation, symptoms of undetermined cause, and for example, provisional symptomatic diagnoses in patients who failed to return for further investigation or medical care.

BRIDPORT

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1970

Public Health Department,

West Rivers House,

West Allington,

Telephone: Bridport 2301/3

BRIDPORT, Dorset.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have much pleasure in presenting for your consideration my report on the work carried out by the Public Health Inspectorate during the year 1970.

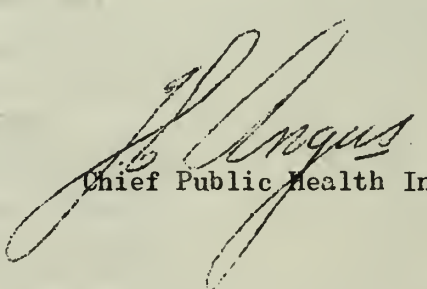
On 1st January I took up my appointment as your Chief Inspector to the new Joint Public Health Department for the Bridport Borough and Rural District Councils, and on the 1st April the staff was fully integrated and accommodated at West Rivers House.

Certain staff changes occurred in the course of the year, and the staff establishment now comprises a Chief, a Deputy, one Inspector, one Meat Inspector, one Rodent Operator, one Student and one Clerk/Typist. With the exception of one Inspector who is employed at Lyme Regis Borough Council for a period of one day per week, all personnel are employed on a full-time basis.

Much time has been spent on the reorganisation of the office and everyday working procedure, and I have endeavoured wherever and whenever possible to attain uniformity in the public health standards and procedures to be adopted within the areas of both Local Authorities.

I would like to express my appreciation to all members of the Council and fellow officers for their support and co-operation.

To the members of the staff I am indebted for a year's work very well done.



Chief Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

In January the Council advised the Department of the Environment that, during 1970, 20 dwellings would be made the subject of statutory action and steps would be taken to deal with another 40 unfit dwellings during the period 1971/73. A further 25 dwellings, occupied by elderly persons, would be dealt with upon vacation. The unsatisfactory housing conditions within the Rural District should be eliminated in the foreseeable future.

Statutory action was commenced in respect of 10 dwellings and all-out efforts will be made to keep to the Council's programme and to save and secure the modernisation of as many as possible of the existing stock of houses.

The basic aim is to provide satisfactory units of accommodation for all local residents and this can be achieved by :-

- (a) Council, Housing Associations or Private Developers building on land available;
- (b) Redevelopment of areas containing unfit houses;
- (c) Rehabilitation of dwellings in areas of obsolescence;
- (d) Improvement of dwellings, not obsolete, but in need of action to prevent deterioration;
- (e) Use of Housing and Public Health Acts to secure improvements and fundamental housing standards.

The Public Health Department is well aware of the urgent need to provide new additional dwellings, and of the great importance of lengthening the life of many sub-standard dwellings by securing their repair and/or improvement. If we still believe that an Englishman's home is his castle, there is no reason why it should not be a modern one.

Appendix 1 at the rear of this section of the report indicates, Parish by Parish, the statutory action which has been taken up to 31st December, 1970, in respect of the known unfit dwellinghouses which are not capable of being made fit at reasonable expense.

The following action was taken in 1970 :-

Demolished

3 unfit dwellinghouses were demolished.

6 Dottery, Allington
West Dene, Dark Lane, Symondsbury
St. Wita, Shedbush Lane, Whitchurch Canonichorum.

The property at 6 Dottery was the subject of an operative Closing Order, but during August part of the main roof structure collapsed and the Council required to take immediate action to render the property safe and prevent further collapse. The tenant found herself alternative accommodation and the owner subsequently carried out the demolition work and cleared the site.

Displacement of Families and Persons

The following shows the number of families and persons who were rehoused during the year from unfit dwellings. In one case the rehousing was carried out by the Council.

	<u>Families</u>	<u>Persons</u>
From houses to be demolished in or adjoining Clearance Areas	-	-
From houses to be demolished not in or adjoining Clearance Areas	1	1
From houses to be closed	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Totals</u>	2	2

Formal Undertakings Cancelled - Houses made fit

Askerswell - "The Nest"

Loders - 54 Bell Cottages

Symondsbury - 1 Manor Farm Cottages, Higher Eype

Total - 3

Undertaking accepted not to use House for Human Habitation Until Made Fit

Burton Bradstock - 7 High Street

Total - 1

Undertakings accepted not to use Houses, upon vacation by present tenants, for Human Habitation until made fit

Litton Cheney - 1, 2 and 3 Church Path Cottages

Symondsbury - 1, 2 and 3 Atrim Common Cottages, Broadoak

Total - 6

Proposals accepted to render Houses fit for Human Habitation

Allington - 4 Dottery (December 1971)

Askerswell - "The Nest" (February 1971)

Bradpole - 1 and 2 Knapp Cottages, Middle Street (June 1971)

Whitchurch Canonorum - Eagle Cottage (May 1971)

Total - 5

Note: The dates in the brackets are those by which repairs and improvements must be completed.

Improvement to Dwellinghouses

Private Dwellings

(1) Standard Grants

	Owner/Occupier	Other	Total
Applications received during 1970	30	17	47
Applications brought forward from previous year	1	-	1
Applications approved	29	13	42
Applications refused	-	-	-
Applications withdrawn	1	-	1
Applications in hand at end of year	1	4	5
No. of dwellings improved and grants paid	14	9	23

Total amount paid in standard grants = £5459.11

Average amount paid per house = £237.35

No. of amenities provided within the 23 dwellings improved during the year :-

	Owner/Occupier	Other	Total
(a) Fixed bath in a bathroom	5	6	11
(b) Fixed bath in a new bathroom addition	5	1	6
(c) Wash hand basin	11	8	19
(d) Hot water supply to bath	10	8	18
(e) Hot water supply to wash hand basin	11	8	19
(f) Hot water supply to sink	6	9	15
(g) W.C.	11	9	20
(h) Septic tank	5	4	9
(i) Sink and piped water supply	1	2	3
(j) Sink	1	3	4
(k) Piped cold water supply	1	1	2
(l) Food store	4	3	7

The "reduced standard" of amenities, as defined in section 43(5) of the Housing Act, 1964, has not been utilised.

(2) Improvement Grants

	Owner/Occupier	Other	Total
Applications received for Improvements during 1970	16	26	42
Applications for Improvements brought forward from 1969	2	1	3
*Applications for Conversions received during 1970	1	3	4
Applications approved	17	25	42
Applications refused	-	-	-
Applications withdrawn	-	2	2
Applications outstanding at end of year	2	3	5
No. of dwellings improved and grant paid	9	19	28

* 1 of these applications was in respect of converting a Mill into three self-contained dwellings.

2 of these applications were in respect of converting 2 dwellings into 1 dwelling.

1 of these applications was in respect of converting 3 dwellings into 1 dwelling.

Total amount paid in improvement grants = £20,242.50

Average amount paid per dwelling = £722.94

With regard to the improvement grants paid during the year for works of conversion -

- 1 Barn was converted into 1 dwellinghouse
- 3 Houses were converted into 2 dwellinghouses
- 1 House was converted into 2 dwellinghouses
- 3 Houses were converted into 1 dwellinghouse

Improvement Areas

No improvement areas have been declared by the Council under the Housing Act, 1969, but a constant vigil will be kept for any suitable area.

Improvement of Dwellings outside Improvement Areas

A tenant occupying a dwelling which is not within an Improvement Area and which lacks one or more of the standard amenities, can make representations in writing to the Council with a view to the Council exercising their powers under the Housing Act, 1964. Owners of dwellings which are tenanted may be compelled to carry out works of improvement, and it would appear that the average tenant knows little or nothing about the powers which they and the Local Authority have in this matter.

Only one written representation from a tenant was received and a copy of the document was served on the owner. A Preliminary Notice was served and the Council's proposals for the improvement of the dwelling are to be discussed in February, 1971.

Provision of Separate Water Service Pipes

In terms of Section 96 of the Housing Act, 1964, the Council may give a grant towards the cost of providing a dwelling with a separate water service pipe.

In May, applications were received from the owner/occupiers of two bungalows constructed post-1944, but both applications were refused and the Council declined to make such grants available.

Certificates of Disrepair

No applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair in terms of the Rent Act, 1957.

In February a letter was received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government stating that this annual return would now be discontinued.

Housing Act, 1957 - Section 18 Underground Room Regulations

Occasions arose within the District during the year when it would have been most desirable to quote and apply specific Regulations to underground rooms, to secure their proper ventilation and lighting and to protect them against dampness, effluvia or exhalation. In October I submitted draft Regulations to the Council who, after adopting them, forwarded copies to the Department of the Environment for approval. The Regulations were not operative at the end of the year.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

The Local Authority have powers under the Housing Acts, 1961-1969 to deal with houses in multiple occupation. There are no known cases within the Rural District of houses being used to accommodate more than one family who have to share cooking, washing or toilet facilities.

It is to be hoped that private owners will not permit their properties to be used for multiple occupation and that, should their properties be too large for single family use, the owners will take advantage of improvement grants and convert the dwellings into smaller self-contained units of accommodation.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses within the District.

Qualification Certificates

(a) Dwellings already provided with standard amenities

If an owner considers that a house satisfies the qualifying conditions i.e. that it is fit for human habitation, is in a good state of repair, and it had all the five standard amenities prior to the 25th August, 1969, he may apply to the Council for a Qualification Certificate. If granted, the controlled tenancy becomes regulated either on the 1st July, 1971 or on the date the certificate is issued, if later.

No. of applications received during 1969 = 1
No. of applications received during 1970 = Nil
No. of applications approved and
Qualification Certificates issued in 1970 = 1

The rateable value of the above dwelling was less than £40.

(b) Dwellings to be provided with standard amenities

If a house, occupied by a controlled tenant, lacks any of the standard amenities, the owner can apply to the Council for a Provisional Certificate and submit his proposals to provide the dwelling with the missing standard amenities and to comply with the qualifying conditions. The Qualification Certificate is issued upon the satisfactory completion of the work and the tenancy becomes regulated from the date the Certificate is issued.

No. of applications received = 11
No. of applications approved
and Provisional Certificates issued = 6
No. of applications outstanding at
31st December, 1970 = 5
No. of Qualification Certificates
issued = 1

Overcrowding

In March, the Council issued a licence under the Housing Act, 1957 to the occupier of a private dwellinghouse, authorising the dwelling to be used by more than the permitted number of persons until 10th February, 1971.

The situation is being kept under review.

UNFIT DWELLINGS NOT CAPABLE OF REPAIR AT REASONABLE EXPENSE

PARISH	Total Known Dwellings	Undertaking accepted to carry out repairs and improvements	U/T. accepted not to use house for human habitation until made fit	U/T. accepted not to use house for human habitation upon vacation by occupier until made fit	Subject of Demolition Order	Subject of Closing Order	Purchased by L.A.	Statutory action pending
ALLINGTON	7	1	1	-	-	5	-	-
ASKERSWELL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BOTHENHAMPTON	4	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
BRADPOLE	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
BURTON BRADSTOCK	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
CATHERSTON LEWESTON	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
CHARMOUTH	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
CHIDEOCK	3	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
CHILCOMBE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LITTON CHENEY	9	7	1	1	-	-	-	-
LODERS	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
PUNCKNOWLE	5	1	-	4	-	-	-	-
SHIPTON GORGE	4	-	-	3	-	-	-	1
STANTON ST. GABRIEL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SWYRE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SYMONDSBURY	27	3	-	14	1	1	3	5
WHITCHURCH CANONICRUM	13	5	-	3	4	1	-	-
WOOTTON FITZPAINE	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	89	21	3	41	7	8	3	6

FOOD PREMISES AND FOOD INSPECTION

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

There are 178 food premises in the district as follows :-

Biscuits and Confectionery	1	Bread and Confectionery	2
Butchers	5	Cafes and Ice Cream	6
Canteens	6	Cheese Factory	1
Clubs, Licensed Premises	4	Confectionery and Ice Cream	2
Fruit and Vegetables	3	General Food	14
Fishmonger	2	Guest Houses	22
General Food and Ice Cream	32	Hotels	15
Hamburgers	1	Hospital Kitchen	1
Restaurants	8	Ice Cream	3
Honey	1	Inns and Ice Cream	4
Inns	28	Milk	14
Market Gardening	1	Slaughterhouse	1
School and Ice Cream	1		
			<hr/>
			TOTAL 178

Food Premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 (Sec. 16)

Storage and sale of ice cream	66
Preparation or manufacture of Sausages or Potted, Pressed or Pickled food	6
Cooked Fish	1

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

"Eating out" in restaurant, canteen or school has steadily grown over the years and despite the recent increase in the cost of school meals the overall picture is unlikely to diminish. The food and catering trades have developed enormously and the task of supplying foods of many descriptions, either cooked, partly cooked or raw from innumerable sources is now a major national industry. Medical science has had to deal with the problem of illnesses due to contaminated or infected foods and in particular, the causes and cures. Bacteriological advances have established both and have prescribed the means of prevention and control which are defined in relatively simple terms in the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960. In the interests of food manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers and consumers, the law relating to food is kept under review and in August new Food Hygiene Regulations were made. These come into operation on 1st March, 1971.

In general, the standard of food hygiene in the District is high, but experience has shown that although it is not normally difficult to make the occupier of food premises install, for example, a wash hand basin or provide a nail brush, it is a much more formidable task to convince him and his staff to use them and indeed not to misuse them. Habit really dies hard!

Visits of inspection were made to food premises to ensure that satisfactory standards of hygiene were being observed.

Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

These Regulations came into operation on 1st January, 1967, and lay down requirements as to food hygiene at Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles.

No formal notices were served during the year.

Meat Inspection

The throughput of the one licensed, privately owned slaughterhouse at Bradpole is less this year than in 1969, numbers of pigs and sheep having fallen considerably; although more cattle were dealt with (1,702 compared with 1,409 in the previous year).

Animal health continued to improve and there was less incidence of disease in sheep and pigs, even though the latter continue to present some puzzling septic conditions through tail biting, arthritis and lymphangitis.

Beef cattle are usually found on post mortem to be free from disease apart from the scourge of liver fluke which continues to cause great loss of livers, sometimes up to 100% of animals from a particular pasture being affected. *Cysticercus Bovis*, the parasite causing beef measles and tapeworms in man, was not found in the slaughterhouse this year. This marked decrease in a troublesome disease seems to be pretty general.

It is among cows that most diseases and conditions requiring rejection of offal and carcasses are found on post mortem. This may be attributed to the domestic environment and long life of these animals compared with beef cattle and sheep. Tumours of various kinds, some malignant, are encountered and lymphosarcoma giving a generalised cancerous condition has been found on four occasions.

Due to its situation in a dairy and stock farming area the slaughterhouse receives a large number of casualty animals, some suffering from physical injury and others from diseases, some diagnosed, others unknown. It would be helpful if owners of stock or veterinary surgeons consigning casualties to a slaughterhouse would send also a brief message of suspected disease or diagnosis.

It is the wish and duty of a Meat Inspector to pass as fit all meat which he is satisfied is free from disease and safe and suitable for human consumption, but many owners appear to think that the less said about a sick animal when presenting it for slaughter, the more chance there is of getting it passed.

Tuberculosis

Although this disease has generally been eradicated from cattle and pigs, the periodic tests do produce a small percentage of reactors. Of these about one in five shows visible lesions of tuberculosis on post mortem, and it is
/a matter

a matter of satisfaction and credit to the Veterinary profession that the numbers of cattle reacting has steadily reduced over the past four years in this area. The figures are :-

1966	=	219	reactors	dealt	with
1967	=	121	"	"	"
1968	=	87	"	"	"
1969	=	50	"	"	"

In November of this year, however, tests carried out at a farm outside this District produced the surprising result of a large number of reactors. These were sent in for slaughter in the usual manner and post mortem showed 19 cattle out of a total of 31 positively affected with T.B., whereupon further testing was carried out by the Ministry at the farm and another 104 cattle consigned for slaughter as definite reactors or dangerous-in-contact animals. These were dealt with in batches of 20 per day and this large number of cattle was in addition to the normal day's kill of cattle, sheep and pigs. All suspect cattle had a detailed and meticulous post mortem, the results of which were very helpful to the Ministry's officers when deciding future action.

Of the 104 batch of reactor cattle 49 were found to have positive lesions, a very high percentage, the disease being found mainly in the head and lungs. Altogether 135 cattle were dealt with in four weeks, and a total of 79 found to be affected with the disease. There was one case of generalised T.B. necessitating total rejection of the carcase and offal. In 8 other cases the disease affected offal, and parts of the carcase, and in the remaining 70 cases was confined to the head, lungs and intestines only, these organs being rejected. One cow, found to have a suppurating lesion in the head, was thought to be spreading infection.

The farm is quite a large one with several hundred cattle, and further tests were to be carried out in the new year. It is emphasised that no danger to public health exists from the supply of milk or meat from this farm, all milk being pasteurised and animals sent for slaughter being inspected as above.

This outbreak greatly increased the number of T.B. reactors dealt with this year, the total number being 197.

Brucellosis

The number of reactors from this disease received at Bradpole is very small as yet, but will probably increase as the informal eradication schemes get under way.

In these cases precautions can be taken by slaughterhouse workers against infection, but many animals which are known or suspected sufferers from *Brucella abortus* are sent for slaughter with no declaration other than perhaps a remark that "She's just slipped a calf, guvnor". Thus slaughtermen, cattle hauliers and meat inspectors are exposed to unnecessary risk since the elementary precautions taken when handling known *Brucella* animals are probably not observed.

Now that there is more publicity and public concern over this disease, it is to be hoped that no reacting or suspect animals will be consigned to the slaughterhouse without due notification.

The slaughterhouse was well maintained structurally during the year and improvements included the provision of a large refrigerated meat store and the replacement of wooden doors by rustproof metal ones.

With ever increasing labour costs it is important to plan and introduce more mechanical aids and labour-saving equipment to increase production. The management is alive to these problems and planning on these lines.

The particulars of the carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part at the slaughterhouse during 1970 are set out in the following table.

	Cattle ex Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number Killed	1,068	634	1,714	16,408	8,365	1
Number Inspected	1,068	634	1,714	16,408	8,365	1
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	4	36	37	42	57	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	381	470	63	1,095	1,520	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	36.0%	79.8%	5.8%	6.9%	18.9%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	1	-	-	2	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	54	48	-	-	15	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.2%	7.7%	-	-	.20%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Slaughtermen

Licences to slaughter or stun animals are granted by the Council under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

Six persons were granted a licence for a period of twelve months to slaughter or stun cattle, sheep, swine or goats using captive bolt or electrolethaler instruments. Two other persons were granted licences to slaughter or stun animals on condition that they carried out their work under the supervision of a competent slaughterman.

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing establishments in this district, but during the year, in the absence of their Public Health Inspector, the Department assisted Beaminster R.D.C. and carried out poultry inspection at an establishment in Salwayash.

Condemnation of Food

The following foodstuffs, including the contents of two frozen food cabinets, were surrendered voluntarily by traders and were disposed of as being unfit for human consumption. Certificates of condemnation were issued in each case.

	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Meat at canteen		70	0
Fish (Fresh)		28	4
Canned Orange Juice		1	3
Frozen Foods	3	10	0
Lard		20	0
Margarine		18	0
	<u>4</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>7</u>

Number of visits = 7

WATER SUPPLIES

The principal areas of population where mains water is still not available are Eype, Monkton Wyld, Stanton St. Gabriel and the Burton Mere area of the Parish of Burton Bradstock. Appendix II at the end of this section of the report indicates the number of dwellings and the estimated populations in each of the 18 Parishes supplied with piped water by the Dorset Water Board or private companies.

There is an urgent need for mains water to be provided to the Eype and West Road areas of the Parish of Symondsburry to overcome problems associated with quantity and quality and it is to be hoped that the mains will be laid and operational in the not too far and distant future.

During the summer the Ministry of Transport sank some trial boreholes in the vicinity of West Road in connection with the route of the Bridport By-Pass and these appeared to be responsible for the diversion of the underground waterway serving a private well at two cottages. Since the occurrence, the Council have supplied the occupants with water in containers under Section III of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the well is still out of commission.

In April I was notified that certain properties in the Puncknowle area had been without their mains water supply during a weekend. There had evidently been a temporary interruption to the electricity supply which resulted in the cessation of pumps at the Litton Cheney Pumping Station. The pumps were re-started manually on the Saturday morning but it was the following Tuesday before the supply was fully restored. The Council made representation to the Water Board over the incident and about the lack of information given to the public.

In July it was reported to the Council that the Othona Community, Burton Bradstock and nine other dwellings were considering obtaining a piped water supply from the Dorset Water Board to replace their present unsatisfactory supply. The Community and two other nearby owners requested the Council to give the Board a guarantee under the Water Act, 1945, Section 36. Negotiations took place and finally the Council agreed to give the necessary guarantee.

The following table shows the results of bacteriological examinations carried out during the year :-

<u>Private Supplies</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Suspicious</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
Source	0	3	3	6
Consumer	24	7	23	54
Totals	24	10	26	60

The 26 unsatisfactory samples were from the following locations :-

Consumer points where water now chlorinated or dwellings now connected to mains	Nil
Sources or consumer points subsequently yielding satisfactory samples after cleansing of sources	14
Sources still unsatisfactory at the end of the year	12

Source and consumer points within the district served by the Dorset Water Board are regularly sampled.

A thorough investigation into the actual locations of all dwellings not yet on mains water is programmed for 1971 and, once identified, the water used in these houses for domestic and dietetic purposes will be sampled as often as may be necessary and submitted for bacteriological examination.

PIPED WATER SUPPLY

	Actual Dwellings	DWELLINGS SUPPLIED BY			ESTIMATED POPULATION			
		Water Board	Others	Total	Est.. Popn.	Water Board	Others	Total
ALLINGTON	74	45	-	45	249	151	-	151
ASKERSWELL	54	36	-	36	137	90	-	90
BOTHENHAMPTON	573	546	-	546	1,242	1,182	-	1,182
BRADPOLE	513	498	-	498	1,310	1,270	-	1,270
BURTON BRADSTOCK	402	381	-	381	700	663	-	663
CATHERSTON LEWISTON	32	30	-	30	54	51	-	51
CHARMOUTH	446	445	-	445	990	987	-	987
CHIDEOCK	257	219	-	219	559	477	-	477
CHILCOMBE	6	6	-	6	14	14	-	14
LITTON CHENEY	92	68	-	68	216	159	-	159
LODERS	173	134	-	134	414	320	-	320
PUNCKNOWLE	177	153	14	167	330	286	28	314
SHIPTON GORGE	126	113	-	113	215	193	-	193
STANTON ST. GABRIEL	43	19	-	19	92	41	-	41
SWYRE	39	36	-	36	91	84	-	84
SYMONDSBURY	395	233	44	277	938	553	112	665
WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM	276	181	-	181	635	416	-	416
WOOTTON FITZPAINE	110	14	-	14	304	39	-	39
TOTALS	3,788	3,157	58	3,215	8,490	6,976	140	7,116

Note: No persons are supplied with water by means of standpipes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The new Submarine Outfall Pipe came into operation in the early part of the year and this has overcome the great and worrying problem of the sewage pollution on the East Beach at West Bay. On 1st and 2nd June, however, I received many complaints about the pollution of the sea and beach between West Bay and West Bexington, and several of the complainants blamed the new outfall pipe. A number of samples of the sea water and "sewage" were taken during Tuesday evening, 2nd June, and the clearest sample was shown to be that taken nearest the marker buoy at the end of the pipe. The pollution was found to be a natural phenomenon caused by a marine plant which produced large quantities of a jelly-like material that gave off a very obnoxious smell when it was decomposing. The sea was calm and it was several days before normal conditions were restored.

The following progress has been made with the new sewerage schemes :-

Litton Cheney and Swyre

This scheme will provide sewers for the village of Litton Cheney, parts of the Parishes of Puncknowle and Swyre not already sewered, and will also provide for the proper treatment of sewage from West Bexington. The whole of the contract work of laying the sewers and outfall and equipping and building the pumping stations and sewage works at Puncknowle has been completed with the exception of the Bexington Pumping Station, which was an additional item to the original contract. Approximately 75 house connections are to be made; work is in progress and will be completed by August 1971.

Asker Valley

This scheme deals with the lower part of Bradpole, Loders, Uploders and Askerswell. All sewers have been laid except for a few short lengths in the Uploders and Askerswell areas and work will be commencing about July 1971 to construct a pumping station at Whitehouse Farm, Bradpole, the outfall pipe and headworks. The delivery of pumps is expected in September and the work entailed in connecting approximately 200 houses should commence in October at Bradpole village. The whole of the contract should be completed by the end of 1971.

On completion of the two foregoing schemes, only two substantial parishes will be without adequate sewers. Symondsbury village with West Road is the most urgent of these and the suggested scheme would deliver all sewage to the long sea outfall.

In July the Council approved in principle a programme of future sewerage schemes, viz. :-

<u>Area</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Est. Cost</u>
Symondsbury (Village, West Road and part of Allington)	1972/3	£47,000
Eype and Eype's Mouth	1973/4	£25,000
Whitchurch Canonicorum (Morcombelake) (Village)	1974/5 after 1980	£40,000 £25,000
Wootton Fitzpaine (Village)	1976/8	£40,000
North Chideock (Village)	after 1980	£10,000

Dwellings in the unsewered areas of the rural district are normally drained to septic tanks, but in some of the more outlying areas chemical and bucket closets are still in use.

Complaints were received during the year drawing the Department's attention to defective and/or overflowing septic tanks. Investigations were made and at the end of the year only one problem at Wootton Fitzpaine was outstanding.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Council own two permanent public conveniences, one of which is situated at Seatown Beach and the other near Charmouth Beach. A mobile convenience has been provided by the Council adjacent to the A.35 Bridport-Dorchester trunk road near the Travellers Rest, Loders. The new conveniences on the west side of the car park at West Bexington beach are now under construction and these are expected to be completed by August 1971. Planning permission has been granted for new conveniences at the car park in Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth and it is expected that a contract will be given in 1971 for their construction.

The provision of a public convenience at Eype's Mouth beach has been postponed until mains water has been provided.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Within the Rural District, the Engineer and Surveyor is responsible for this service and refuse is collected each fortnight. Two modern continuous loading refuse vehicles are in use and refuse is disposed of at the Bridport Borough Council's tip at Bothenhampton, which is also utilised by Beaminster Rural District Council.

A few complaints were received by the Public Health Department in connection with the fortnightly collection of refuse and each complainant expressed a wish for the Council to introduce a weekly collection.

The Council carries out a special weekly collection of refuse from camp and caravan sites and hotels during the summer months, and the occupiers of the premises concerned who request the service are charged at an appropriate rate.

Approximately 100 waste paper containers have been provided by the Council on lay-bys along main roads and beaches and these are emptied twice per week during the summer.

CLEAN AIR

The air pollution measuring equipment at Eggardon Hill, Askerswell continued to operate during 1970, the fifth successive year, and the equipment used in the European air pollution survey was in operation for the second year. The European equipment is situated alongside the air pollution station on Eggardon Hill, but all analyses are carried out at Warren Spring Laboratories. Weather records are maintained for use in conjunction with the air pollution stations. A rain gauge at Loders is owned and operated by Mr. McDowall of "Malories", and he kindly makes his results available to the Council, whilst wind, temperature and cloud cover records are maintained at West Rivers House.

The average daily concentration of smoke for the whole of 1970 was 4.4 microgrammes per cubic metre, the lowest figure yet recorded. The sulphur dioxide concentration for the whole of the year was 22.4 microgrammes per cubic metre per day, only slightly higher than the lowest figure yet recorded (1967). The highest concentration of smoke occurred in December 1970, and of sulphur dioxide in February and September 1970. These concentrations are subject to wind force and direction, air temperature and rainfall. It is noticeable that the summer of 1970 was warmer than the previous four years; maximum daily temperatures of over 30°C. were recorded in June, July and August and had not been recorded during the 1966-1969 period, whilst at the same time the minimum daily temperature did not drop below 11°C., which had previously been recorded only in July 1969. Nevertheless the average daily temperature for the whole year remains at 11°C. The rainfall during 1970 was average even though in January and November a recorded precipitation of over 185 mm. was obtained for the first time. December 1970 was the driest month, closely followed by June, March, May and April.

No Smoke Control Areas in terms of the Clean Air Acts have been declared, but every encouragement is given to property owners who are about to carry out certain alterations to provide fireplaces capable of burning smokeless fuel.

No complaints were received in connection with smoke or fumes.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

During the year, following notification from H.M. Inspector of Factories, one mechanical factory was deleted from the register.

FACTORIES ON THE COUNCIL'S REGISTER AND DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS MADE

	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	21	16	-	-
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities	12	10	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities (excluding outworkers' premises)	1	1	-	-
TOTAL	34	27	-	-

FACTORIES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act not including offences relating to outworkers	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	3	-	-	-

OUTWORK

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec.133(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Nets other than wire nets	79	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	79	-	-	-	-	-

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

All known premises coming within the scope of this Act have been inspected and where necessary letters stating defects and/or deficiencies have been sent to the occupiers of premises. Routine visits of inspection will ensure that all premises are brought into compliance with the Act and subordinate legislation.

No accidents involving employed persons were notified.

The following are the prescribed particulars to be included in the annual report under Section 60 of the Act :-

	No. of premises registered during 1970	No. of premises registered at the end of :-		No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection	
		1969	1970	1969	1970
Offices	-	6	6	2	3
Retail shops	4	23	26	15	14
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	-	-	-	-
Catering establishments	-	21	21	18	20
Fuel storage depots	-	1	1	-	-
TOTAL	4	51	54	35	37

No. of visits of all kinds by inspectors to registered premises

62

Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises
as at 31st December

<u>Class of work place</u>	<u>No. of persons</u>	
	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
Offices	23	23
Retail shops	46	53
Wholesale departments	-	-
Catering Establishments	93	93
Canteens	2	2
Fuel storage depots	2	2
TOTAL	166	173
Total males	50	53
Total females	116	120

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

There is one pet shop in the district licensed under this Act.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

One person is licensed under this Act to keep an animal boarding establishment and the premises can accommodate not more than six cats.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

The subject of "noise" is, justifiably, being given much publicity at the present time, but whatever can be achieved in controlling noise by administrative and legislative methods, its reduction to an acceptable level depends most upon standards of public social behaviour. The creation of unnecessary noise is often attributable to persons who are inconsiderate towards their fellow men.

In terms of the Noise Abatement Act, 1960, where a noise nuisance is established it is a statutory nuisance and the Local Authority must deal with it either informally or by serving an Abatement Notice under the provisions of Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The notice must state the cause of the nuisance and must also specify any things required to be done to abate the nuisance.

No statutory notices were served during the year, but four noise complaints were received by the Public Health Department. The noises were arising from a milking machine at a farm, the blowing of bugles by members of a youth organisation, the crowing of cockerels and the barking of dogs, and in every case the complainants stated that their sleep was being disturbed.

All complaints were investigated and, as a result of informal action, the noise from the cockerels and dogs was reduced apparently to an acceptable level. The youth organisation advised their members, whilst in camp, to keep their bugle blowing to a minimum particularly at reveille and before breakfast. No further complaints were lodged thereafter.

Consultants were called in to assist with the investigations into the milking machine noise. Measurements of sound levels were taken and recordings were made of sound signals. A suitable silencer was designed and made and, on being fitted to the machine, the nuisance was abated.

RODENT CONTROL AND ERADICATION OF VERMIN

In May the part time Rodent Operator in Bridport Borough retired and both this Council and the Bridport Borough Council agreed to employ the R.D.C. Operator full time on a joint basis with effect from the 15th May, 1970. The Operator has the use of a fully equipped vehicle and is able to deal with rodent and insect infestations quickly and efficiently.

The Council gives a free control service to the occupiers of dwellinghouses, but there is a charge of £1.75 per hour made to the occupiers of business premises. This charge includes the cost of all labour and materials. During the year, rat infestations were notified at three business premises and 14 visits were made before the infestations were cleared. A total sum of £12.70 was re-charged to the three occupiers, since the premises were not covered by Council Agreements.

19 premises were subject of Council Agreements and there was an income from this source of £120. 59 infestations were found and this necessitated 346 visits being made to the premises concerned to destroy rats. On 7 other occasions, when the premises under Agreement were visited, no infestations were detected and no treatments were carried out.

The public sewers and the refuse tip at Bothenhampton received attention and infestations were found and dealt with.

Advice on rat-proofing was given to the occupiers of infested land.

In addition, the Rodent Operator dealt with the following infestations :-

Moles	29	complaints	Cockroaches	2	complaints
Wasps	21	"	Beetles	1	"
Bees	11	"	Fleas	1	"
Hornets	8	"	Spiders	1	"
Flies	7	"			

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	NON- AGRICULTURAL	AGRICULTURAL
1. Number of properties in the district	4200	421
2. a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	779	18
b) Number infested by (i) rats	170	13
(ii) mice	15	5
3. a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	803	84
b) Number infested by (i) rats	27	21
(ii) mice	-	-

SWIMMING FACILITIES

Bathing takes place in the sea and in three open air swimming pools. Two of the pools are situated at schools and are used by pupils. Regular samples of water are taken of the one pool used by members of the public during the summer season and the chlorine content is checked.

CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES

At the end of the year, licences under the Public Health Act, 1936, Section 269, were in force authorising the stationing of a total of 933 tents on nine sites. The Camping Club of Great Britain & Ireland Ltd. has issued a certificate authorising the stationing of 100 tents by Club Members on one additional site.

In one case during the year a tent site licence was issued for the stationing of a total of 200 tents in fields in Charmouth. The licensee objected to the Magistrates Court to the effect that the number of water closets required by the licence was unreasonable and should be reduced. The Council subsequently agreed to accept the lower standard put forward by the licensee's Solicitor and an amending Order was made by the Justices.

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 is administered by this Department and at the end of the year there were 27 licensed sites in the district. A total of 17 residential caravans, 1,309 seasonal caravans and 261 touring caravans can be stationed on these sites.

In addition, the Caravan Club Ltd. issued a certificate for the stationing of 118 caravans by Club members on one site, and this exempted organisation has also issued eight certificates in respect of land which may be used by its members for purposes of recreation and on condition that not more than five caravans are stationed at any time on each site.

In January, three owners of land were prosecuted for contraventions during 1969 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. The defendants were found guilty of all summonses and were fined. The respective fines imposed were - £1.50 on each of ten charges; £2. on each of twenty-four charges; £2. on each of seventeen charges.

Two major public health problems arose at licensed caravan sites during the summer. In one of these cases the drainage system on the site became so defective as to cause sewage effluent to flow along a trunk road and into land in separate ownership. An Abatement Notice in terms of the Public Health Act, 1936 was served and the site operator carried out much work to eliminate the defects and renew the defective drains. The standard of effluent from the septic tanks on the site also proved to be unsatisfactory, and instructions were given for a tertiary treatment plant to be installed to obtain a standard of effluent acceptable to the River Authority.

In the other case the mouth of a river at a caravan site had become blocked due to the build-up of shingle. A pool had formed in the river and holidaymakers were using it as a bathing place. In the interests of public health, the shingle was removed to enable the river to have an unrestricted outfall into the sea.

The use of certain land as a caravan site is at the present time subject of High Court proceedings and it is unlikely that the matter will be resolved until the latter part of 1971.

Section 8 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, which gives the Local Authority power to alter conditions attached to a site licence, was utilised on one occasion. The holder of the licence did not make representations and the licence was duly amended.

There is an ever increasing summer problem in this area of the South Coast in connection with the unauthorised use of land for the stationing of caravans and pitching of tents, and on many occasions the law relating to caravanning and camping has been explained to the owners and occupiers of land. The Council have made efforts to find suitable land for the establishment of transit and touring caravan sites, but for several reasons, in April they had to abandon a suggested site on the Eastern side of the district.

In many respects the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act of 1960 is out of date and virtually unworkable and amendments are necessary to make enforcement much more practicable.

